WARD PROJECT 2026

What is the history of the Ward Theatre and Grace Church?

Since we acquired the Ward Theatre in the early 2000's, we have consistently utilized the building for various ministry needs and opportunities, ranging from church services (weekend and mid-week) to prayer meetings, office space and to host numerous community outreach events.

Being an older structure (the Ward was built in the 1930's), the building has required regular maintenance and significant improvements throughout the years. In 2025 we focused on updating and repairing three of the four exterior walls (all but the front façade). This work included repairing brick, replacing windows and painting.

What work is required in 2026?

We have been prayerfully anticipating the repairs needed on the exterior front façade for years, knowing that the scope of work and the unique challenges with the various elements (art deco façade', marquee, etc.) also provide an opportunity to envision other creative solutions. Some sections of the outer façade layer will need to be removed entirely, the extent of which will be determined more specifically once we are into the work. We will also look to replace the existing windows and perform other necessary maintenance.

Are we keeping the existing Art Deco Façade?

Throughout our ownership of the building, we have tried to balance our desire to preserve the historical nature of the building with what is practically functional and fiscally responsible.

Removing, restoring and reinstalling the existing façade is cost prohibitive. At this point, it is our intent to keep at least a portion of the existing façade/panels in place and/or to utilize the panels in other creative ways, if possible. We are considering a variety of other materials and finishes for areas that need complete replacement.

We recognize and appreciate the significance that this building has had in our community, and in our church family, over these many years. It is our hope it will continue to be a significant contribution for decades more.

What do we need to do this work?

Mainly we need an ongoing prayer covering, wisdom and the Lord's provision. As has been true for many needs and projects over the years, we are dependent on the generosity of our church body, both financially and in volunteer service. We will require some additional professional consultation and assistance at various stages. We will need to rent and/or borrow some heavy equipment to perform the work safely and efficiently.

How long with the work take?

The timeline will be better determined once the extent of the need is further confirmed after we get through the initial phase. We will also work as we are able with the funds that come in (including ordering materials, some of which have 6-8 week lead times). By the end of this fall we will make sure that all elements are secure, safe and sealed for the winter season. We will continue working, as weather permits, throughout the duration of the winter and we anticipate wrapping up major work by the fall of 2027.

How can I help?

Prayer	->	join us at one of our daily prayer meetings!
Volunteer	->	help us with the work (something at any skill level!)
Give	->	financial gifts can be made online (www.gracemp.org/respond).